

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 00205 061847Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P 061836Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7106

S E C R E T BONN 00205

STADIS//////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, GW

SUBJECT: CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE  
MILITARY SHIPMENTS TO ISRAEL

REF: STATE 8243 (1/15/74)

BEGIN SUMMARY: AFTER 'THE YOM KIPPUR WAR, THE USG ESTABLISHED A DOD/FMOD CHANNEL TO NOTIFY THE FRG OF PLANS TO MOVE MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO ISRAEL (REFTEL). RENEWED SPECULATION ABOUT A POSSIBLE NEW ARAB/ISRAELI WAR HAS LED SEVERAL GERMAN NEWSPAPERS TO RECALL THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH EXISTED DURING THE PREVIOUS HOSTILITIES AND TO ASK WHAT CURRENT FRG POLICY IS IN THIS AREA. THE EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE ON PRESENT STATE US-FRG CONTINGENCY PLANNING IN THE EVENT OF RENEWED OUTBREAK OF ARAB-ISRAELI HOSTILITIES. END SUMMARY

1. THE QUESTION AS TO WHAT THE FRG'S POSITION WOULD BE IF THE U.S. ONCE AGAIN ATTEMPTED TO RESUPPLY ISRAEL FROM U.S. STOCKPILES IN GERMANY DURING A RENEWED OUTBREAK OF ARAB-ISRAELI FIGHTING IS A HIGHLY TOPICAL ONE WITH THE GERMAN NEWS MEDIA. WE HAVE REPLIED TO INQUIRIES BY STATING THAT WE HAVE NO INFORMATION.

SECRET

PAGE 02 BONN 00205 061847Z

TION ABOUT CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR THE RESUPPLY OF

ISRAEL IN THE EVENT OF RENEWED HOSTILITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST. FRG COMMENT HAS BEEN EQUALLY CIRCUMSPECT.

2. ON JANUARY 6 THE QUESTION WAS POSED TO DEPUTY FEDERAL PRESS SPOKESMAN GRUNEWALD. HE REFERRED TO AN INTERVIEW WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT PUBLISHED IN DER SPIEGEL ISSUE OF JANUARY 6 AND REFUSED TO GO FURTHER. DER SPIEGEL HAD ASKED THE CHANCELLOR "ACTUALLY HOW STRONG IS THE PRESSURE OF THE AMERICANS ON THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC TO MAKE AIRPORTS AND SEAPORTS AVAILABLE FOR THE SUPPLY OF ISRAEL IN CASE OF WAR?" SCHMIDT REPLIED, "I KNOW OF NO PRESSURE. WE WOULD IN ANY EVENT NOT YIELD TO IT. SINCE I DON'T FEEL MYSELF TO BE THE CHANCELLOR OF A WORLD POWER, I WILL NOT PUBLICLY PHILOSOPHIZE OVER YOUR QUESTION. THAT WOULD BE VERY DANGEROUS."

3. THIS INTERVIEW HAD ALREADY BEEN WIDELY COMMENTED UPON IN OTHER MEDIA. THE MILITARY CORRESPONDENT OF THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE, RUEDIGER MONIAC, WRITING IN THE JANUARY 6 FAZ COMMENTED ON THE INTERVIEW: "COMMON RULES HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT WHICH OBVIOUSLY PROVIDE THAT BONN WOULD TOLERATE THE USE OF AMERICAN BASES AND AMERICAN ARMS IN THE FRG FOR RESUPPLYING ISRAEL, IF WASHINGTON WERE TO TAKE SUCH ACTION WITHOUT ATTRACTING PUBLIC ATTENTION. THERE WOULD BE NO OBJECTION TO THE SHIPPING OF AMERICAN ARMS FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC ON SHIPS SAILING UNDER THE AMERICAN FLAG TO AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION, NOR WOULD INTENSIFIED USE OF U.S. AIRBASES IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC BE CONSPICUOUS. IN BONN'S VIEW, SUCH UNDERSTANDINGS WITH THE AMERICAN ALLIANCE PARTNER DO NOT CONFLICT WITH THE BALANCED POLICY BONN INTENDS TO PURSUE VIS-A-VIS ALL MIDEAST COUNTRIES." MONIAC HAS CLOSE TIES IN THE FMOD AND HIS COMMENT PRESUMABLY REFLECTS HIGH-LEVEL THINKING IN THAT MINISTRY.

4. ACTION REQUESTION: REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S GENERAL GUIDANCE ON STATE OF US-FRG CONTINGENCY PLANNING IN THE EVENT OF A RENEWED OUTBREAK OF MIDDLE EASTERN HOSTILITIES.

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PAGE 03 BONN 00205 061847Z

SPECIFICALLY, SHOULD WE ASSUME THAT ARRANGEMENTS REPORTED REFTTEL RE. DOD/FMOD CHANNEL STILL APPLY?  
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